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EN TEEVIN

Man, smoking a short black pipe in the porch, with his elbows on his knees and a greasy newspaper before him, while two or three sun-burned elves in faded clothing played around his feet. "Let us go back! This is such a horrid place!"

"I dare say we can buy a draught of milk, or even a raw cabbage here,' I reasured her. "Why, Florence, child, you wouldn't make much of a soldier!"

The man looked up as we approached and we explained the dilemma in which we found ourselves.

"Oh, of course—of course," he said, with a gleam of courtesy which showed he had not always passed his life in these dreary wildernesses. "Sit down; Jamie, call your mother. I believe my wife's somewhere round at the back of the house, splitting kindlings."

Florence opened wide her soft, brown the beacon star of my home—the guardian angel of my life! I tried to think of these

angel of my life! I tried to think of these things, when I saw her the queen of the drawing-room circles and the favorite where all were fair ! And I tried, moreover, to remember them, when it happened, as it often did, that Kate was unreason

as it often did, that Kate was unreasonable, or disposed to be capricious and exacting.

"You are late to-night, Fernando!" she said, pettishly, one evening as I came into her presence.

She was looking bewitching pretty, with her cherry lower lip pouted a trifle, her pretty brows contracted, and a deep carnine flush upon her cheeks, while the violet silk dress that she wore made her blonde beauty even more brilliant than its natural effect.

"Just five minutes, Kate, that's all!" I her presence.

She was looking bewitching pretty, with her cherry lower lip pouted a trifle, her pretty brows contracted, and a deep carmine flush upon her cheeks, while the violet silk dress that she wore made her blonde beauty even more brilliant than its

"Just five minutes, Kate, that's all !" apologized as I sat down beside her and drew her little hand into mine, by way of

making peace with her. But she jerked it petulantly away.
"Did you bring the white tea roses?"
"I couldn't get them, Katie, upon my word. There has been a floral masquerade somewhere up town, and every tes rose is gone. I ordered a lot of white violets—they are sweeter still!" "I don't want them," fretted my nee. "When I say tea roses, I mean

make flowers blossom at midwinter!"
"I won't have the violets, any way!"
said Kate, fauning herself violently. "Don't sit so close to me, Fernando—you have been smoking !" with a curl of her pretty lip—and an indescribable grimace of dis-

gust.

"Only one cigar, Katie—and I supposed that the wind would have removed all traces of that, long before I got here!" I confessed, in laughing contrition.

"I hate cigars!"

"But, Katie——"
"And you know it Fernando (1rr!"

"And you know it, Fernando Orr!"
"Indeed, Katie, I didn't intend to an

But you do annoy me—and you keep annoying me—and —"
"Stop a minute, Katie!" There was a something in her tone that warned me to protect my own dignity. "Do you really

"Are you in earnest?" I asked, gravely. She tore the diamond ring from her fore-finger, and gave it back to me!

"There!" she said, defiantly. "I am free from man's tyranny now, at all events!"

Perhaps she thought I would insist on her retaining the sparkling token of our engagement—perhaps she expected a pretty little scena, wherein I should go down on my knees and ask pardon for my cigar and the missing tea roses, and the five minutes the missing tea roses, and the five minutes of tardiness, and the various other de-linquencies of which I had most undoubtedly been guilty. But if any such impression had taken possession of her mind, she was very soon disabused of it. I had already endured enough to bring me to the limits of my patience, and rose quietly

"Good-aye, then, Katie !"

"Good-aye, then, Katie!"

'Good bye, Mr. Ocr!"

Ist-pped at the door, and turned round.

'Kitie, if you should think better of
this during the next week I will come to
you any time you choose to send for me!"

'You needn't trouble yourself," said
Kate, haughtly; "I shall not send!"

So we parted for fifteen long years. It
was love's first young dream with me, and
I was a little inclined to be sentimental
about it at first; but then years afterward,
when I married Florence Silon, out in
Chicago, I was as heart whole a young gentieman as the United States could afford.
Florence was not, perhaps, so radiantly
pretty as Kate Dallas had been, but she
had one of those pure faces which make a
man better and holier only for looking
into its sweet lineaments; and, moreover, man better and holier only for looking into its sweet lineaments; and, moreover, Florence didn't object to cigar smoke, and had a way of being satisfied with whatever offerings I laid at her feet, whether they were tea-roses or white violets. And when I saw Florence Silon sitting opposite me as my wife, I could not regret the abrupt termination of my first engagement, although I still remembered Kate Dallas' golden hair and limpid eyes, and wondered within myself what luckless cavalier was the present object of her pretty despotism!

pretty despotism!
"Fernando, I am quite sure you have mi-sed the way!"
I burst out laughing at the bewilder-

ment of my wife's voice.
"It looks like it, Flora, I must say.
Well, we must drive lack to the last crossroads—five miles, if it is a step!"

I looked around at the five old woods on either side of the solitary road in hopes of seeing something like a human habita-

"Look, Florence!" I cried triumphantly, as I checked my horse, "isn't that smoke?"
Florence shook her head.

Florence shook her head.

"Mist from some low lying stream, more like y," she said, incredulously.

"Is if my evesight were not more trustworthy than that! I tell you, young lady, that is smoke. There's a rural cot among those cedars, and I intend to cast myself and you upon the hospitality of these dwellers in the wilderness. I am hungry."

"So am I," laughed my wife; "but I don't be ieve...."

I sprang out, picketed my horse to a tall birds saping and gave my arm estentationally to my bright eyed companion.

"At all events," I said, "we'll go and Across the cool aisles of the midsummer woods—through dense underbrush and thickets of wild roses, that showered their pink petals round our feet as we walked—over a clear stream, by the aid of a fallen log, we made our way, until Florence's doubts were solved by the actual appearance of a little one story cottage or cabin

doubts were solved by the actual appear ance of a little one story cottage or cabin of unpainted wood, in a stump dotted clearing, where a melancholy pig, rooting under the porch foundation, and a patch of yellow looking stunted cabbages in the back-ground, deneted semething like civilisation.

'On, Fernando!' whispered my wife, as we saw a coarse-looking, shock-headed

eyes at this speech.

"You are an invalid?"

"An invalid?" with a hearty laugh, which plainly indicated the sound condition of his lungs at least. "Not much of the invalid about me, I guess!"

"Then why don't you split the kind-"Then why don't you split the lings for her?" asked frank Florence.

bat this position, when, a little bare-legged urchin came tumbling round the

corner of the house.

"Mother ain't splittin' kindlings—she's gone to the spring for water! I hollered to her to come quick, Poppy wanted her!"

"That's right, sonny!" said our host,

complacently.

Almost at the same minute, a bowed down, weary-looking woman emerged from the wall of the woods below the house, carrying a brimming pail of water u either hand—a faded, bonnetless woman, whose yellow, lustreless hair was twisted whose yellow, lustreless hair was twisted into a tight knot at the back of her head, and whose brow was already seamed with wrinkles, though she had scarcely reached middle age. Yet there was an impa pable something in the wan face that strained my memory strangely.

'Kate Dallas!' I involuntarily exclaimed

She atopped, and set down her pails, coloring scarlet; I saw that our recognition was mutual. "Let me carry them," I said, advancing.
"Needn't trouble yourseif!" said the
master of the house. "She is used to it,
aren't you, Kitty? So you know my wife,
eh, sir".

I introduced myself and Florence, and learned, in my turn, that my "first love" was married to Mr. Sykes, who had failed in business three times in New York and

"Stop a minute, Katie!" There was a something in her tone that warned me to protect my own dignity. "Do you really mean what you say?"

"Yes!" she retorted. "I suppose you take me for a child, who don't understand her own words, but I'm not a child, and I won't be treated so!"

"Mand I won't be scolded either," went on the spoiled child, shrugging up her shoulders. "I'll never marry a man that won't indulge me and look up to me, and let me have my own way in everything. I can't bear to be snuobed, and governed, and soolded, and I won't—I'll break the engagement first!"

"Are you in earnest?" I asked, gravely. She tore the diamond ring from her forehim, with a gruff :

"All's fish that comes to my net!"
Poor Katie! I knew how mortified she was, but I did not wish to witness her cis-And I have not seen my first love since!

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